

No. 39 September 28, 1981

BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY
OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Lu Xun — Great
Writer, Thinker
And Revolutionary

Current Economic
Situation

China Belongs to
The 3rd World



鲁迅

1881-1981

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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China launches three space satellites with a single rocket carrier (p. 5).

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while Sichuan, site of earlier floods, restores production and rebuilds homes (p. 19).

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Beijing computer exhibition shows growth of China's young computer science and industry (p. 29).



A bust of Lu Xun,
by Zhang Dehua

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Agricultural Policy

China has made great changes in its agricultural policy. Have positive results been achieved?

The situation in China's countryside is excellent. Agricultural production has developed quickly in the past two years, and in 1979, total output value was 8.6 per cent more than in 1978. Grain production in 1980, a year of natural disaster, dropped by 4.2 per cent, compared with 1979, but the output of cotton and oil-bearing crops rose by a big margin, and total agricultural output value went up by 2.7 per cent. This has resulted in a marked improvement in the peasants' livelihood. In 1956, the entire annual income for each peasant was 73 yuan. In 1976, it went up to 113 yuan, an average increase of two yuan each year for each peasant. In 1977 it was 117 yuan and in 1980 it jumped to 170 yuan. The average increase in these three years was 17.7 yuan.

This year, though there are serious floods and drought in some parts of the country, there will be an all-round increase in agricultural production as a whole. The output of grain, cash crops and sideline occupations is expected to increase by a big margin over last year.

This excellent situation is attributable to the effective methods adopted for agricultural development since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in December 1978. The agricultural policy now in force has aroused the peasants' enthusiasm, developed production and improved the livelihood of the people. The change is

conspicuous in the formerly poor and backward areas.

The effective methods for promoting agricultural development are as follows:

• **Reducing the Burden of the Peasants.** The amount of grain to be delivered and sold to the state remains the same as that for the years 1971-75, and is not raised even when there is a bumper harvest. Beginning from the summer harvest of 1979, the state has raised by 20 per cent the price of grain purchased from the peasants. An additional 50 per cent is paid by the state for that portion of grain sold by the peasants above the set quota. The purchasing prices for cotton, oil-bearing and sugar crops, animal and aquatic products have also been raised. On the average, the purchasing prices for agricultural products have been increased by 25 per cent. Following the increase in purchasing prices for both agricultural and sideline products, the peasants got 25,800 million yuan more in 1979 and 1980.

Apart from this, the prices for farm machinery, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and plastic products for farm use were reduced by 10 to 15 per cent.

• **Developing a Diversified Economy.** Arable land is limited in China, but there are large areas of mountainous land, water surfaces and grassland. Though farming techniques are backward, there is no shortage of manpower. In the past the slogan of "taking grain as the key link" was followed, regardless of the actual conditions in different places. As a result, the single-crop economy in the rural areas hindered the development of agriculture. Initial

readjustments in agricultural production have been made in the past two years, and importance is attached to promoting a diversified economy, with an all-round development in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations and fishery. The output of cotton rose by 380,000 tons, and peanuts, 450,000 tons. To develop a diversified economy suited to the local conditions has not only reactivated the rural economy and increased the peasants' income, but also provided more funds for grain production. At the same time, it has also helped solve the problem of surplus labour force in the rural areas.

• **Adopting the System of Responsibility in Production.** Various forms of responsibility in production, including the fixing of output quotas on the household basis (see "System of Responsibility in Agricultural Production" in issue No. 11), have been adopted in China's countryside. All based on public ownership, they have effectively put into practice the principle of "more pay for more work" and greatly enhanced the enthusiasm of the peasants. The establishment and gradual perfection of this system has boosted agricultural production, increased the peasants' income and improved the situation in the countryside.

It is through the summing up of the experiences of success and lessons of failure over the past 30 years that China has found the correct way to develop agriculture. This is of great strategic significance to China's political and economic situation.

— Economic Editor
Wang Dacheng

LETTERS

Youth Important in Modernization

I appreciate the article "China's Youth: Builders of Socialist Modernization," carried in issue No. 30. It was very informative. In all countries young people are like powerful locomotives, but locomotives need experienced people to operate them. The "five stresses" and "four points of beauty" mentioned in this article are very important and I think we should popularize them among Japanese youth.

Yoshikazu Konishi
Yokohama, Japan

Urban Employment

Full employment is a topic of paramount importance in all countries, whether they are socialist or capitalist and whether they are on the east side of the Pacific or the west. Because of this I read with great interest the article "Urban Employment in the Period of Economic Readjustment" (carried in issue No. 32, Japanese edition only). I admire the way you are striving to solve this problem.

I hope that you will find a solution to this problem as early as possible. I would like to ask:

1) Rural population account for only 20 per cent of Japan's total, whereas in your country the situation is the reverse. What will be the future ratio between the urban and the rural population in your country? What measures will you take to handle the surplus labour force resulting from further farm mechanization?

2) What are the ways out you've found for those waiting for jobs?

3) It is reported that this year 10 million people will be newly employed in China. What is the ratio between those who are going to fill jobs left by retirement and those who will be employed by the newly built factories?

Toshio Sato
Yamagata, Japan

Thank you for your letter. You may find answers to some of your questions in already published articles: the special feature "1979: More Than 7 Million People Employed" in

issue No. 6, 1980, and "New Employment Policy" in "Events & Trends" in issue No. 34 last year and "Develop Small Towns" on page 17 in this issue. We plan in a forthcoming issue to carry an article about employment and hope you will read it and send us your comments — Ed.

Newspapers

Your article "Newspapers in China" in issue No. 20 of May 18, 1981 gave us in Western Europe quite a good view about the daily life in your country. I'd like to thank you for this. In fact the whole *Beijing Review* gives a good view about China today

Domen Marc
Borgerhout, Belgium

Factual Reports

Today when Western media publish distorted reports on China's domestic and international policies, you have countered this by carrying articles explaining the true situation. This is very good. I think many subscribers who read the column "Notes From the Editors" must have noticed the distortions of China by Western media. I am one such reader.

Hiroshi Sakaguchi
Tokyo, Japan

Questions Clarified

"Notes From the Editors" is an informative column. I have liked all of the articles so far. They clarify questions that I hear in the USA and help me to explain. All points are made very clear.

I enjoy your articles and special features. They are open and honest in content.

"Opinion Digest" is excellent in explaining many controversial topics and has clarified my thinking many times.

The international section is good because it gives the People's Republic of China's position on serious issues in clear, logical, and unbiased terms.

Arch H. Elley
Philadelphia, PA., USA

Reform of Criminals

The publication of articles like "An Ex-Convict's Story" (issue No.

8, 1981) about helping to reform criminals is very inspirational. Similarly, stories which portray the turning of cowards into courageous and bold people should be published. The inclusion of this type of article will help other people overcome fear and lead normal lives.

Purushottam Raj Singh
Kathmandu, Nepal

Too Little on Literature

I feel there is a scarcity in your magazine, that is no literature page. Why don't you start a literary column? Literature is the life of a magazine. You could publish short stories, poems, reviews, and also literary criticisms.

I hope you will consider my suggestion.

Binam Shrestha
Jhapa, Nepal

My Opinions

I'd like to say something on some articles in issue No. 19 this year.

The article on "Mao Zedong Thought and Mao Zedong" is very good. Generally, it is informative and very helpful in understanding your country.

The article "The People's Democratic Dictatorship Is in Essence the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" showed me another facet of Marxism. While I am myself not a socialist, I like all articles which help me understand the political system in other lands.

I like the short article "The Central Committee's Secretariat and Its Work" very much, as it showed me how the political system in your country works.

The "Communique on Fulfilment of China's 1980 National Economic Plan" is well written. It is always good to know that some country is prospering economically, since economic prosperity means better living conditions for the proletariat.

Having read the article "Reagan Soft on Soviets" in the international section, I too feel that Reagan is too soft on the Russians, who, besides the invasion of Afghanistan, have committed many injustices in their own country and so given Marxism a bad name.

Martin Smith
Essex, UK

ECONOMIC

Industrial Situation

Production. In the first eight months of this year, China's total industrial output value was 332,700 million yuan, or 65.1 per cent of the annual plan. This was 1 per cent more than that of the same period of last year.

The 1981 national plan calls for an increase of 8 per cent in light industrial output value. The first eight months of this year already saw an increase of 20 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. The increase in the production of articles for daily use exceeded the plan by a big margin. This was particularly so in the output of bicycles, sewing machines, wristwatches, TV sets, and woollen yarn and there were more varieties, too.

The output value of heavy industry in January-June dropped by 8 per cent compared with that of the same period of last year. This was the result of a reduction in capital construction and production tasks

and the readjustment of industrial structures and product mix.

In the current readjustment of the national economy, heavy industrial enterprises have paid more attention to market survey in order to transform the formerly self-serving heavy industries into industries that serve the needs of the people's livelihood and provide technical assistance for the development of the national economy as a whole. The results are encouraging. Production began to pick up in July, and output in August exceeded that of July.

Transport and communications departments have been tapping their potential. The volume of freight in the major sections of a number of railway lines has increased, and the volume of freight handled by the seaports, mails handled by the postal departments, and the number of passengers and volume of freight handled by the civil aviation department have also increased at a faster rate than planned.

Among the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions that have achieved a com-

paratively quick rate of growth are Zhejiang, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Xinjiang, Tianjin, Hubei, Shandong and Fujian. All these places have maintained an appropriate rate of growth in heavy industry while developing their light industry at a quick pace.

Responsibility System. In order to overcome the shortcomings of absolute equalitarianism, with "everybody eating from the same pot" irrespective of the amount and quality of the work done, a system of responsibility is being instituted in a planned way in various industrial and transport enterprises. Under this system, the enterprises which have their production quotas fixed are responsible for their own losses and gains. In this way the economic achievements have a direct bearing on the economic interests of an enterprise, and the income of the workers and staff members is determined by the results of their labour. The aim of this system is to give scope to the initiative of the enterprises as well as of the workers and staff members, boost production and increase revenues. Leading industrial departments have urged various localities and various trades to take an active part in introducing this new system of responsibility in production and at the same time pay attention to investigation and study so as to work out a form of responsibility in production that is most suitable to the locality or enterprise concerned.

Major Problems. There still exist many problems in industrial production, the major ones being a drop in the quality of certain products, the failure of coal production to meet the

China Sends Three Satellites Into Space With Single Rocket

CHINA successfully launched a group of three spacephysics experiment satellites with a single carrier rocket on September 20, 1981, for the first time in its history.

The satellites were accurately orbited with the various systems functioning normally. They are continuously sending back scientific experimental data.

Prior to this, China had successfully launched eight man-made earth satellites into space. The first one was launched on April 24, 1970 and the eighth earth satellite was launched on January 26, 1978.



The Jixi Coal Mining Machinery Plant in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province now produces a greater variety of machines to meet the needs of the coal-mining industry.

state quotas, and the inadequacy of transport and communications to meet the increasing needs of the national economy. Departments concerned are studying ways and means to solve these problems as soon as possible.

Specialists Advise on Policy Decision

The State Council has set up an economic research centre and a techno-economic research centre for the purpose of soliciting specialists' advice on policy decisions regarding technical and economic matters. Noted specialists in the social and natural sciences, who have a good grasp of economic and technical affairs and a good understanding of the overall situation of the national economy, have been invited to set up office at Zhongnanhai—the site of the State Council—to serve as consultants and help develop the nation's economy.

The economic research centre, founded in August last year, is charged with the task of studying the strategic, comprehensive and long-term

practical questions in the national economy by integrating theory with practice. Over the past year, it has numerous discussions on structural reforms concerning labour, bank, tax, prices and finance and put forward various plans and patterns to be adopted. It has also conducted research on specialized topics and put forward measures and suggestions concerning the development of the national economy and ways and means of overcoming temporary economic difficulties. Many of these suggestions have been adopted by the government.

The task of the techno-economic research centre, set up earlier this year, is to study the feasibility of major technical and economic measures and proposals submitted for discussion by the central authorities, taking the overall economic situation into consideration. Recently, it convened a meeting of specialists in the coal, railway, transport and communications, electric power, geological, environmental and economic fields to make an examination and determine the feasibility of a proposal by a

vice-premier to expand the coal base in the coal-rich Shanxi Province. While approving this vice-premier's proposals, the specialists made suggestions on the scale of exploitation of coal in the province and other related questions.

The two centres have their own standing committees. The standing committees are headed respectively by Xue Muqiao, adviser to the State Planning Commission and director of the commission's economic research institute, and Ma Hong, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

One of the reasons why China made rapid progress in its economy in the early 1950s is that attention was paid to bringing the specialists' role into full play. Later, mistakes were made. Apart from "Left" thinking which was the main cause, the negligence of the specialists' opinions was also a factor. Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Zhongguo Jinrong (Banking in China), a monthly published by the People's Bank of China, made public in its issue No. 9 China's monetary statistics for the second quarter of this year: gold reserves were 12.8 million troy ounces, the same as at the end of 1980, and foreign exchange reserves were 3,810 million US dollars, 1,548 million US dollars more than that at the end of 1980.

held in December 1978, attention has been paid to enlisting the help of specialists who are now playing an ever greater role in socialist construction.

SOCIAL

Huanghe River Flood

The most serious flood crest on the upper reaches of the Huanghe (Yellow) River since 1954 safely passed Lanzhou, an important industrial base in northwest China, and the large water conservancy projects in that region remained intact.

Continuous rainfall since mid-August caused the water level of the Huanghe River, formerly known as the "scourge of China," to rise rapidly. In Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, which are on the upper reaches of the Huanghe, hundreds of thousands of civilians and People's Liberation Army soldiers worked round the clock to take precautionary measures against the flood. The 54-metre-high cofferdam of the



Reinforcing embankments of the Liujia Gorge Reservoir on the upper reaches of the Huanghe River before the advent of the flood peak.

Longyang Gorge hydropower project now under construction was reinforced and raised by four metres. When the whole project is completed, the reservoir will help regulate the flow of the Huanghe and provide power for five hydroelectric stations.

On September 11 and 13, the State Council sent two urgent messages to the local governments concerned and the Bu-

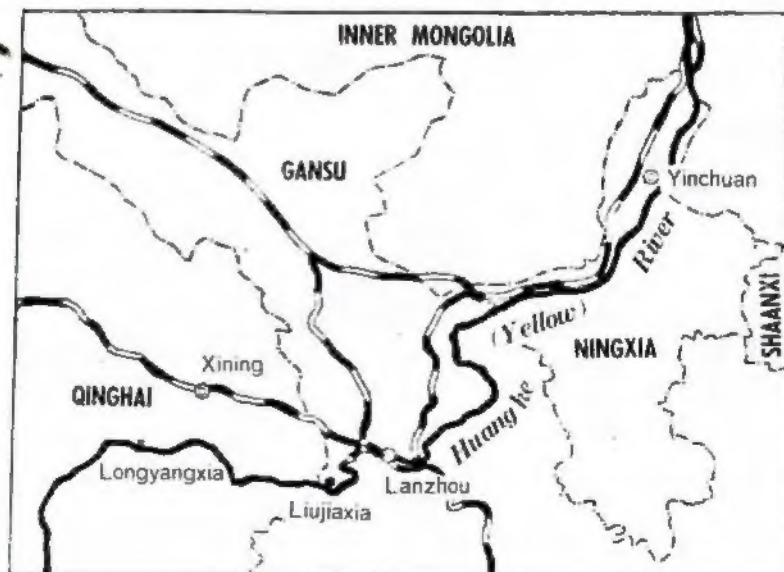
reau of the Longyang Gorge Hydropower Engineering Project, instructing them to "strive for the best results in combating the flood and be prepared for the worst."

Minister of Electric Power Li Peng rushed to the danger sites with a vice-minister to direct the work of reinforcing the cofferdam and dykes. Leading comrades of the local governments and Party committees also took part in this work.

Through the concerted efforts of the army men and civilians, the dams and dykes were strengthened, and the inhabitants and important equipment and materials in the flooded areas were moved to places of safety, thereby greatly reducing possible losses.

In Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, more than 200 enterprises menaced by flood took all necessary measures to ensure normal production.

Not far from Lanzhou, some 4,000 PLA men and civilians joined efforts to strengthen the main and auxiliary dams of the



Liujia Gorge Hydropower Station—another big hydroelectric engineering project on the upper reaches of the Huanghe River. As a result, though the water level of the Liujia Gorge Reservoir, which already had 4,000 million cubic metres in store, had risen three metres higher than permissible, no serious damage was done to the city of Lanzhou.

Combating Smuggling

The State Council recently convened a work conference in Beijing on combating smuggling in the maritime provinces of Guangdong, Fujian and Zhejiang. The conference urged these provinces to take effective measures to smash smuggling.

Taking advantage of China's open economic policy and other measures to enliven the market, smuggling has grown noticeably in the last few years, and it is especially rampant in these three coastal provinces.

From January 1980 to June 1981, 45,000 cases of smuggling were smashed throughout the country and goods confiscated totalled more than 100 million yuan. Goods smuggled into the country included watches, TV sets, cassette recorders, clothing and nylon materials, and goods the smugglers tried to take abroad included gold, silver dollars, precious medicines, jewelry and cultural relics.

The main reason for such rampant smuggling activities is that some enterprises and undertakings, organizations and people's communes have bought smuggled goods in large quantities and sold them at a big profit in disregard of state dignity and in violation of state laws. In some cases, these organizations even take a direct part in the smuggling.

The State Council has reiterated no organizations or individuals are permitted to take part in such activities or shield them in whatever form. Should such activities be discovered, they will be dealt with according to law and Party discipline. Leaders of smuggling gangs and upstarts will be severely dealt with. In areas where smuggling is rampant, the people should be educated to be patriotic and law-abiding and take an active part in combating smuggling so that they will understand that it is glorious to boycott smuggled goods and a shame to hanker after small gains.

At present, the above-mentioned three coastal provinces are taking strong measures to check smuggling. Other provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are also taking necessary measures to co-ordinate their work.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Swedish King in Beijing

King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden arrived in Beijing on September 14 on a 10-day state visit to China.

The first state visit to China by the Swedish head of state marks a new stage of development of the friendly ties between the two countries.

In the name of Chairman Ye Jianying of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice-Chairman Xi Zhongxun gave a banquet in honour of the distinguished guests.

In his welcoming speech, Xi Zhongxun said: "The friendly relations between China and Sweden are based on mutual respect and mutual trust. In recent years, considerable progress has been made in friendly co-operation, contact between government leaders have steadily increased, and economic and trade relations and scientific and cultural exchanges have expanded.

He expressed the conviction that the King's visit would deepen mutual understanding and promote the friendship and all-round development of relations in the political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields.

In his speech at the banquet, King Carl Gustaf said that the relations between Sweden and China are good and that there

Vice-Chairman Xi Zhongxun of the NPC Standing Committee welcomes Swedish King and Queen in front of the Great Hall of the People.



are no problems impeding their positive development. He added: "We can look forward with optimism to the further development and strengthening of these relations."

Chairman Ye Jianying and Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping met with the Swedish King on separate occasions and had friendly talks with him.

The Swedish King and Queen also toured Xian, Chengdu and Shanghai.

Djibouti National Assembly Delegation

A delegation from the National Assembly of Djibouti, led by Speaker Abdelkader Waberi Askar, paid a 4-day (September 14-18) friendly visit to China.

Chairman Ye Jianying met with the distinguished guests. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries.

At the banquet he gave in honour of the Djibouti delegation, Vice-Chairman Tan Zhenlin paid tribute to the Djibouti Government for pursuing a foreign policy of active neutrality, non-alignment and good-neighbourliness, for opposing super-power aggression and expansion and outside interference in African affairs, for the peaceful settlement of disputes in the Horn of Africa, and for supporting the liberation movement of the people of southern Africa and the just struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

The Vice-Chairman said that though Djibouti is a small country, it has made contributions to the defence of world peace

and the security of the region where it is located, for it dares to defy brute force and speak out to uphold justice in international affairs.

Referring to the situation in Africa, Waberi said in his speech at the banquet that "the Horn of Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea are like a powder magazine frequented by some big powers." He said that some people profess themselves as peacemakers, but they do everything they can to meddle in other countries' internal affairs in a bid to dominate them.

Noting that Djibouti is situated at the gateway to the Red Sea, Waberi said: "In safeguarding peace we need not only our own efforts but also support from our friends including China."

Independence of Belize Greeted

On September 21 Belize, a new country in Central America, proclaimed its independence. Premier Zhao Ziyang sent a message to George Price, Prime Minister of Belize, warmly greeting the independence of Belize and informing him that the Chinese Government has decided to recognize Belize. Premier Zhao expressed the hope that the relations between China and Belize and the friendship between the two peoples will continue to develop.

Soviet Authorities Urged to Stop Anti-China Acts

Yu Hongliang, Director of the Soviet Union and East European Affairs Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, handed

a note on September 18 to G. V. Kireev, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy in Beijing, protesting the Soviet authorities' vilifications against Chinese diplomats in Moscow.

The note said that on August 29, 1981, the Soviet central television station broadcast a so-called documentary film entitled "Guo Xiushan's Depositions." It was stated at the end of the film that the relevant material was provided by the KGB, security organ of the Soviet Union. The Soviet authorities concocted the story that the Chinese secret service had sent a detained murderer to the Soviet Union to conduct espionage activities. This film was fabricated in an utterly despicable way. The purpose was to incite the Soviet people to hate the Chinese people.

The KGB, having repeatedly tried to bring about defection among the staff of the Chinese Embassy in Moscow, has gone a step further to show pictures on the TV to slander them, and it has even got some disguised overseas Chinese to participate in its so-called "China spy case," which was an anti-China farce.

The note lodged protests against the Soviet authorities' vilifications made repeatedly against Chinese diplomats in Moscow in disregard of the rudimentary norms governing state relations which they should observe in the context of the existing normal diplomatic relations between the two countries. It demanded that the Soviet authorities stop these despicable activities at once, otherwise the Soviet side will have to bear all the consequences arising therefrom.

*Poland***Moscow's Intervention**

ON September 18, Warsaw Radio broadcast the strongly worded statement of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government to the Polish United Workers' Party and Government on the present Polish situation. This statement is viewed as a serious intervention in Polish internal affairs.

In this latest statement, the Soviet leaders asked the Polish leaders to pay attention to the claim that "anti-Sovietism in the country being waged with impunity and has reached dangerous limits," and censured the Polish authorities for "failing to take resolute steps to stop the anti-Soviet campaign." The statement demanded that "the malicious anti-Soviet actions must be put to an end in the People's Republic of Poland," and said menacingly that if the Polish authorities continue to take a lenient attitude towards any manifestation of anti-Sovietism, it would do "immense harm" to Polish-Soviet relations. Polish leaders were told "to take prompt, determined and decisive steps." The charge of "anti-Sovietism" has always been used as a pretext by the Soviet Union to interfere in other's internal affairs.

Polish matters should be left for the Polish people to solve. But ever since trouble erupted in Poland a year ago, the Soviet Union has repeatedly interfered and threatened Poland politically, militarily, through the media and by economic means. The letter of the CPSU Central Committee on June 5 had

brazenly criticized the Polish leaders and attacked the line and policies of the Polish United Workers' Party, even calling on "the healthy forces" "to counter-attack" and "wage a struggle."

And not very long ago, the Soviet Union had mounted a large-scale military exercise close to Poland, involving some 100,000 troops to exert military pressure on Poland. A concentrated propaganda campaign too has been launched by Moscow recently. A series of reports and articles has been published

attacking and threatening Poland. Soviet factories and other enterprises have been told to write to Soviet newspapers vowing to give "internationalist assistance and support" to Poland.

There is no denying that the Polish situation has grown more turbulent, but the Chinese people are confident that the Polish people will eventually find a solution to their own problems. Foreign intervention is definitely impermissible, however acute and complicated the situation may be. The world is watching vigilantly and with concern what further action the Soviet Union will take in relation to Poland.

—Xin Jisu

Nguyen Co Thach's Latest Ruse

ON September 14, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach suddenly announced that Viet Nam "supported" the ASEAN proposal for the establishment of a "neutral zone" in Southeast Asia, and added in a winning way that the declaration adopted by the ASEAN representatives meeting in Kuala Lumpur in November 1971 could serve as "a solid base for negotiations" on Kampuchea. He declared that Viet Nam "supported," too, the idea of solving problems through negotiations "if negotiations are held only among Southeast Asian countries." Nguyen Co Thach, speaking as if Viet Nam were a disinterested party, declared that it "asked only for the cessation of direct or indirect foreign interference and threat to the region" and "the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Southeast Asia."

The reason why Nguyen Co Thach sees cause to make these statements at this moment is not hard to fathom: At the current UN General Assembly, the Soviet Union and Viet Nam will again be condemned by the international community as the aggressor against Afghanistan and Kampuchea. In the year since the last General Assembly session, the Vietnamese authorities have adamantly refused to observe the Assembly's resolutions, vilified the ASEAN countries, and their troops even carried out armed incursions into Thai territory and violated Thai sovereignty. Viet Nam's sudden volte-face, its "support" for the 10-year-old ASEAN proposal, is designed to improve its position in the UN General Assembly.

Distortion of ASEAN Proposal

It is very difficult not to see that Nguyen Co Thach is trying

to whet ASEAN appetite with Viet Nam's pretended "neutrality." There is not a whit of "support" for the ASEAN proposal at all. First, he has distorted the main thrust of the ASEAN proposal. The declaration on the neutralization of Southeast Asia adopted in 1971 by the Foreign Ministers of the five ASEAN countries when they met in Kuala Lumpur pledged, among other things, "to exert initially necessary efforts to secure the recognition of and respect for Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, free from any form or manner of interference by outside powers." Following this, the proposal for the establishment of "a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality" was repeatedly reaffirmed by ASEAN. But instead of supporting this stand of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a body consistently exorcised by Viet Nam as "a product of US imperialist policy of aggression and interference" and "a tool of US imperialism," Viet Nam brought out a counter-proposal, the establishment of "a zone of genuine independence, peace and neutrality." Now, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister adroitly sidesteps the crux of the contention and selects the first two and the last two words "a zone of neutrality" to make out that Viet Nam's proposal tallies with that of the ASEAN countries, which it does not. What the ASEAN countries demanded is a "zone of neutrality" "free from any form or manner of interference by outside powers." On the other hand, Viet Nam's proposed "zone of neutrality" allows the Soviet Union to commit aggression, carry out expansion and interference through Viet Nam. Where is the commonality between the two?

As a matter of fact, Nguyen Co Thach has made it very clear what his aim is when he professed support for the establishment of a "zone of neutrality." Firstly, in the name of discussing the establishment of a "neutral zone," Viet Nam insists on regional talks instead of international negotiations on Kampuchea and thus jettisons the UN General Assembly's relevant resolutions; secondly, it substitutes "the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Southeast Asia" for the total withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea; thirdly, it seeks to confuse the issue by "asking only for the cessation of direct or indirect foreign interference and threat to the region," and maintaining its allegation about the presence of a non-existent "Chinese threat" to deflect attention away from Soviet-backed Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea. Thus it can be seen that Nguyen Co Thach is demanding what Viet Nam has always demanded, only this time it is being presented in a different guise. In other words, Viet Nam is still pursuing its aggressive, expansionist policy.

The Soviets Are Behind the Proposal

Over the past two years, the Vietnamese authorities backed by the Soviet Union have sent troops to invade Kampuchea and extended Vietnamese military presence right up to Kampuchea's border with Thailand.

Namibia

THE Eighth Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the question of Namibia, which closed on Sept. 14, passed by an over-

The Soviet Union has exploited the opportunity to push south down the West Pacific, into Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay in Viet Nam and the port of Kompong Som in Kampuchea. Soviet warships are now in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Siam to pose a threat to the vital Strait of Malacca. Are these instances of Vietnamese support for the ASEAN proposal for the establishment of a neutral zone in Southeast Asia? Viet Nam has invaded Kampuchea and has aided and abetted in the Soviet Union's drive into Southeast Asia. Is it not clear that Viet Nam's professed support for a neutral zone in Southeast Asia, as announced by Nguyen Co Thach, is merely a plot to further Vietnamese hegemonism and Soviet global strategy?

We have all seen how, one after the other, just before the UN General Assembly session began, leaders of Viet Nam and Laos and the puppet regime in Phnom Penh were called hurriedly to Moscow for meetings. Nguyen Co Thach's "new" proposal is the outcome. So it is not hard to see who Nguyen Co Thach is working for and who is behind him when his recent proposal for the establishment of "a neutral zone" in Southeast Asia is viewed together with the Soviet Union's proposals for "a neutral zone" in Western Europe and in Japan.

— "Renmin Ribao" Commentator (September 17)

Ill-Advised US Policy

whelming majority a resolution demanding comprehensive mandatory sanctions be imposed against South Africa and immediate, unconditional implement-

tation of Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia. This is another reflection of the international community's indignation towards the South African authorities.

Namibia is the only country in Africa which has not yet won independence, and only because Pretoria clings truculently to its racist and colonialist stand.

Pretoria's Intransigence

South Africa has done all it could to block the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions on Namibian independence. It has set up its own organization inside Namibia and granted phoney independence. The recent large-scale military invasion of Angola by South Africa is a further demonstration of Pretoria's intransigence. But like those of the Ian Smith regime, all its efforts will end in failure.

The recent flare-up of arrogance displayed by the South African authorities is related directly to the Reagan administration. Last May, Reagan had a very agreeable talk with the Foreign Minister of South Africa in Washington. Then last month, US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker's statement describing US policy towards South Africa as "neutral" and "impartial" gave a great boost to the extremely isolated South African authorities. Everyone knows that one cannot be "neutral" or "impartial" over the issue of the South African authorities adhering to colonialism and racism, while the Namibian people are struggling for national indepen-

dence and with the African frontline countries are fighting against racism and colonialism.

Moreover, one must not forget that the United States has enormous strategic and economic interests in South Africa. The "neutral" and "impartial" attitude of the United States is actually support for the South African authorities. When the resolution condemning the South African authorities came before the recent emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly, the US representative cast an abstaining vote. This, of course, is further evidence of US support for the South African authorities. In conniving with Pretoria, Washington only makes the latter resist the tide of history all the more stubbornly and this will further arouse the feelings of the African countries against the US administration. It was an ill-advised action.

A Serious Question

The African people are energetically struggling to uphold their national independence, develop their national economies and wipe out the last racist and colonialist forces on the continent. The Soviet hegemonists, out of their own global strategic considerations, are going all-out to expand their influence and are seeking every opportunity to penetrate deeper into the African continent on the pretext of fighting imperialism and supporting the national-liberation movement. In the years after World War II, the United States had tried in vain to stop the African people's drive to win national independ-

ence and assume the role of the old colonialisms. This has left the African people with a very bad impression. If US officials are still unaware of the situation as a whole and continue to wallow in the mire with the South African regime, then the United States is presenting the Soviet Union with an excuse to expand its influence in Africa under the guise of countering imperialism. This is a question the Reagan administration should do well to give serious consideration to.

China's Stand

The issue of Namibia's independence has become an urgent problem in the struggle to get rid of colonialism in Africa and the rest of the world and it must be solved as soon as possible. Every country that upholds justice should respect and support the national aspirations of the Namibian and African people and help the cause of Namibian independence. The Chinese Government and people will, as always, firmly support Namibia in its just struggle for national independence and liberation against South African colonialist rule.

We firmly believe that with support from other African countries and the international community as a whole, the Namibian people will maintain unity, fight on to overcome all difficulties on the road of their advance and attain their goal of national independence.

—“Renmin Ribao” Commentator, (September 19)

"Strategic Co-operation" of the United States

AFTER Reagan and Begin ended their talks on September 10, the United States declared that the two sides would establish "stronger" strategic co-operation. This was followed by an announcement that the United States will press ahead with plans to sell airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft to Saudi Arabia and will seek to establish similar strategic co-operation with Arab countries.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig said in a television interview on September 11 that the Reagan administration will give continued support to the implementation of Camp David accords and work for a new break-through to ease the hostile relations existing between Israel and the Arab countries as part of the strategic goal of coping with Soviet strategic expansion in the Middle East. He declared that the new strategic co-operation between the United States and Israel was meant to guard the Middle East against "external threats" coming from the Soviet Union and its proxies. The United States' decision to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia was not to counterbalance the closer US relations with Israel, he said, and discussions were under way on similar problems with moderate Arab countries. But Israel, Haig said, has made no pledge not to take similar action as the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor station and the bombing of Beirut earlier this year. Nor did he clarify how the United States' pro-

Israeli bias was going to be changed.

Speaking of the new US-Israeli strategic co-operation on the same day, Begin announced that Israel was willing to provide the US Sixth Fleet and the American Air Force with the use of air bases and naval facilities, and allow the storing of US tanks in Israel and flying air cover in the Mediterranean. He said that this was to resist Soviet expansion into the Middle East. At the same time, Begin continued to voice opposition to the planned US sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. Addressing himself to pro-Israeli members of the Congress, he claimed that the Saudi arms deal was "very dangerous to Israeli security."

At the moment, the Reagan administration is stressing that its new "strategic co-operation" with Israel was "not directed against Arab countries," to allay Arab suspicion and opposition.

US National Security Affairs Adviser Richard Allen said on September 11 that the disagree-

ment between the United States and Israel on the sale of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia was less serious than had been expected. He also said that President Reagan thought the United States could remain friends with Saudi Arabia and Israel as well as many other countries in the Middle East not hostile to the United States.

But the real situation is not inspiring. With the level of support from the United States upgraded to strategic co-operation and no restraints to curb its policy of expansion, Israel will not relinquish by one whit its expansionist ambitions. Arab opinion is very suspicious of the US-Israeli strategic co-operation and is firmly against it. In a statement attributed to an unnamed Saudi official which the Saudi press agency distributed, the upcoming US-Israeli strategic co-operation pact was described as "impeding the peace" in the Middle East. This shows that if the present strong US pro-Israeli bias and its refusal to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization is not changed, then US efforts to establish "strategic co-ordination" in the Middle East will be well-nigh impossible.

— Ren Yan

India

Untouchables Seek a Better Deal

The recent move of Harijans (Untouchables) to embrace Islam as a protest against caste oppression and discrimination has shaken Indian society.

The first massive conversion took place on February 19 in the southern state of Tamil Nadu when 143 Harijan households numbering 558 people in

a village in Tirunelveli county adopted Islam. The move spread to other villages, to other counties and other states. In August, some Harijan communities announced that large numbers of their caste would change their religion to Islam, Buddhism or Christianity on August 15, India's National Day.

Roots. The root cause of this massive Islamic conversion in India lies in the caste structure of Hindu society which puts the Harijans (Untouchables) in the lowest caste, condemned for ever to doing menial jobs as caste is inherited. There are about 100 million Harijans today, 15 per cent of the population and most of them are landless peasants. In the cities, the dirtiest, most menial and lowest paid jobs are reserved for them, for they are forbidden other work. Though the 1950 Constitution of India bans untouchability and its practise in any form is a punishable offence, the Harijans are still at the bottom of the economic and social ladder, discriminated and oppressed by upper-caste landlords.

According to estimates of one Indian newspaper, in Uttar Pradesh State alone there were some 18,000 cases of persecution of Harijans between 1977-80 in which some 1,300 Harijans were killed. In the first half of this year, there were 2,100 atrocities against Harijans and some 174 were killed. In one recent attack organized by 3,000 members of the upper caste against a Harijan village in South Arcot county, Tamil Nadu, some 200 houses were razed to the ground. Thereupon, the victims announced that they would embrace Islam if the government did not punish the criminals.

Government Measures. The Indian Government has recently ordered local governments to firmly deal with local caste conflicts, particularly those involving the Harijans. On August 5, the Bihar State Court sentenced 50 to life imprisonment for their part in causing the deaths of 16 Harijans in February of last

Indian Newspaper Rumour

THE Indian *Statesman* published a news item on September 10 claiming that a company of Chinese frontier guards armed with automatic weapons had crossed the Sino-Indian frontier at a place named "Crossroad" and intruded 200 metres into Indian territory and hoisted a Chinese flag there early last month. Competent Chinese authorities have investigated this allegation and have found that nothing of the sort had happened. The whole thing was purely an invention of that Indian newspaper. The Chinese people consider it a most regrettable thing.

The Chinese Government has always taken a positive and prudent attitude towards the Sino-Indian boundary issue. The leaders of the two countries stated their respective positions and exchanged views on the problem during Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua's June 28-30 visit to India. It was decided

then that officials of the two countries meet and carry on the discussions for a settlement, at a time to be fixed later. The Chinese side stated more than once that prior to a settlement, the two sides should strive to maintain the status quo at the boundary and the tranquillity there.

The Chinese Government and people have done what they said. Therefore, it is a very unfriendly act of the Indian newspaper to publish such a false thing. This definitely does not help to improve and develop friendly Sino-Indian relations.

Attention must be drawn to the fact that Soviet newspapers are using this fabrication by the Indian newspaper to sow discord in an attempt to disrupt the improvement and development of Sino-Indian relations. This calls for thought.

— "Renmin Ribao" commentary (September 18)

year. On August 18, the authorities in Kanpur cracked down on the Harijan community, arrested 23 Harijans because they were members of the "Dalit Panthers," which had organized the conversion of 3,500 Harijans. The authorities in Tamil Nadu have announced that an edict is being passed to prohibit the "coercion and enticement" of Harijans to change their religion. On August 5 the chairmen of four opposition parties in India issued a joint statement pointing out that the wave of

conversions among Harijans was caused by the persecution and discrimination practised by upper-caste Hindus against the Harijans.

Some upper-caste Hindus too have said that the Harijan caste system should be abolished so that the Harijans enjoy equal rights within the Hindu religion. One report says that an organization is being set up to stop Harijans turning to other religions.

— Zhong Tai

Lu Xun — Great Writer, Thinker And Revolutionary

by Yan Chunde

SEPTEMBER 25 will mark the centenary of the birth of Lu Xun (1881-1936), founder of modern Chinese literature and standard-bearer of the Chinese proletarian revolutionary cultural movement.

Lu Xun was born into a declining scholar-official family in Shaoxing, east China's Zhejiang Province. His mother was a country woman, whose generosity and perseverance remained a lasting inspiration to her son.

Brought up at the end of China's last feudal dynasty, the Qing, he read classics during his boyhood and also found interest in unofficial histories and notes that disclosed social darkness and corruption. Works by patriotic scholars who sought change, the delightful folktales and legends that his grandmother and governess told him, folk woodcuts, paintings and local operas were all his earliest patriotic inspiration.

When Lu Xun was 13, his grandfather was jailed for involvement in a fraud during the imperial examinations and his family was obliged to take refuge in the countryside. This gave the boy a chance to make friends with the

peasants and their children, and provided him with first-hand knowledge of rural society and the peasants' sad plight. His life in this period became the background and source of his later literary works.

Three years later, Lu Xun's father died of illness, and the family went bankrupt. Then, in 1898 at the age of 18, Lu Xun entered the Naval Academy in Nanjing, which was run by the Qing government, and was later transferred to the School of Railways and Mines. It was during this period that he studied Western natural and social sciences and was greatly influenced by the British biologist T.H. Huxley's *Evolution and Ethics*. This book convinced him of the validity of Darwin's theory of evolution, the concept of the future prevailing over the past, and of youth superseding old age. This knowledge was for a long time his basic ideology supporting the new forces, countering conservatism and opposing imperialism and feudalism.

Determination

Lu Xun was greatly concerned for the future of his country and people. The massacre of Yi He Tuan members (Boxers) by the eight imperialist powers' invading armies in 1900 and the humiliating Protocol of 1901 they imposed on China greatly distressed him. Seeking the way to national salvation and prosperity, he went to Japan to continue his studies in the spring of 1902. He cut off his queue, symbol of national oppression, and wrote the famous lines:

*The tower cannot avoid the god's sharp
arrows;*

*Dark is the ancient garden crushed beneath
the storm.*

The author is a lecturer at the Beijing Languages Institute.



Lu Xun in his Shanghai residence in 1927.

Unrecognized, I put my hope in an ice-cold star

While offering my blood to the Yellow Emperor.

In these lines he expressed his deep love for his country by the allegory of Cupid's arrow, also his noble wish to devote his life to the cause of national salvation, to his country and people. In the poem he set down the rules of conduct governing his entire life.

In Tokyo, Lu Xun was active in the Chinese patriots' revolutionary movement against Qing rule. Probing into the causes of China's weakness, he read extensively in philosophy and literature. In the autumn of 1904, he enrolled in the Medical College at Sendai, hoping that after graduation he would relieve the suffering of the sick, and in case of war he could serve as a surgeon. Then he had the shock of seeing in a lantern-slide show of the Russo-Japanese War—a Chinese being beheaded by Japanese troops, while a group of healthy Chinese watched the "spectacle," expressionless. Lu Xun began to feel that it was more important to awaken people's consciousness than heal their ailing bodies. Lu Xun left medical school and took up literature, hoping to restore people's spiritual health and rouse their patriotism with his pen.

After returning to Tokyo from Sendai, Lu Xun engaged in political struggle against the Qing Dynasty. He prepared for the publication of a literary magazine and translated Russian, east European and other oppressed nations' literature in an attempt to kindle the flames of national resistance with sparks of art and literature and so retrieve China from total disaster. He wrote a number of important essays introducing the theory of evolution and the history of Western natural sciences, as well as progressive foreign poets, with the aim of enlightening the Chinese people.

In August 1909 he returned to his hometown after seven years abroad and taught in two middle schools. When the Qing Dynasty was overthrown by the Revolution of 1911, Lu Xun was overjoyed. He wrote the short story *Recollections of the Past* about the reaction of the feudal forces in a small village town during the revolution, displaying his talent for irony. In 1912 he was invited to work in the Ministry of Education first in Hangzhou, later in Nanjing and then in Beijing.

Soon he discovered that the Revolution of 1911, which toppled the feudal rule of the Qing

Dynasty and prepared for the founding of the Republic of China, had not fulfilled the task of fighting against imperialism and feudalism. The gains of the revolution were usurped by the warlord government, and state power passed into its hands. Depressed and utterly miserable, he studied Chinese classics and Buddhist scriptures, and collected rubbings of ancient bronze and stone inscriptions. Then, after much deliberation and exploration, he joined the new culture movement led by the proletariat against imperialism and feudalism.

Literary Career

In January 1918, Lu Xun became a member of the editorial board of *New Youth* magazine, which promoted democracy and science. In this capacity he hit hard at feudal morality, imperialism and warlords. In May, his *A Madman's Diary* made its first appearance in this magazine, a short story written in the vernacular. It denounced the feudal society head-on and thoroughly through the mouth of a madman: In the history of feudal society "scrawled all over each page are the words: 'Confucian Virtue and Morality.' . . . The

Medicine: Though a young revolutionary was executed by the Qing court, the general populace was unaware of the democratic revolution. An old poor peasant who believes that a blood-soaked bun would cure his tubercular son bought one from the executioner, paying his life-time savings. But his son soon died after eating the bun.

The True Story of Ah Q: This was written against the background of the 1911 Revolution. Ah Q, a farm labourer who was oppressed, revolted and was finally executed by reactionary forces. His story reveals the class contradictions in the countryside at that time and evaluates the bourgeois-led 1911 Revolution and its failing to stand firmly by the people and maintain revolutionary spirit. The author sympathizes with Ah Q for his misfortunes, but he is indignant at his willy-nilliness. He castigates the reactionary forces and expresses his great eagerness to rouse the peasants to revolt.

Regret for the Past: The story is of two young intellectuals who fought for freedom of marriage in the 20s. Their action was not tolerated by surrounding feudal forces, however, and their love came to a tragic end.

The New-Year Sacrifice: A kind-hearted, hard-working, strong, determined country woman suffered under feudal morality and died miserably.



Lu Xun making a speech at Beijing Teachers' University in November 1932.

whole book was filled with the two words — 'Eat people.'

Later Lu Xun wrote about "the unfortunates in an abnormal society." He poignantly and profoundly pointed out the national malady resulting from feudal ideas and imperialist cultural aggression. He excoriated enemies within China and abroad, and the old moral code. He wrote in rapid succession "Medicine," "The True Story of Ah Q" and 12 other short stories, which were published under the title *Call to Arms*. These stories laid the foundation for modern literature and revolutionary realism in China. Later, in 1924 and 1925, he wrote his second collection of short stories, *Wandering*, which includes "The New-Year Sacrifice," "Regret for the Past" and nine other short stories.

Lu Xun was a master of the short story. In the above two collections, he presented a panorama of Chinese society from the Revolution of 1911 to the mid-20s. He focused especially on the mentality and outlook of different classes in the decaying villages and towns under the oppression of imperialism and feudalism, showing readers how the peasants sank into despair, and the causes, and then the peasants' awakening, growing resistance and struggle for survival. He also portrayed intellectuals and the urban poor, sympathizing with them and at the same time criticizing their weaknesses and vacillation.

After 1924, a hesitant and despondent Lu Xun wrote *Wild Grass*, a collection of 23 prose poems, the first in this form in China. Besides

reflecting the writer's mental conflicts and struggle, the poems speak of his hatred for the enemies, his love of revolution, seeking after truth, longing for beauty, and show his peppery sarcasm towards the sick social mentality and phenomena. Written amidst white terror, the message of the poems is often necessarily hidden. Reality and the poet's feelings are veiled in dreams, with his sentiments and philosophy woven into the veil.

Lu Xun's heart was set on training a younger generation of revolutionary writers and artists, and he gave unfailing thought and support to youth in the struggle, helping them establish literary organizations. He read their literary efforts and carefully revised them. This kind of help made him a beloved teacher of the youth.

In August 1926, persecution by feudal warlords and politicians forced Lu Xun to leave Beijing to take up a university teaching post in Xiamen (Amoy), a south China coastal city. There he wrote five reminiscences which together with five other prose pieces are collected in *Dawn Blossoms Plucked at Dusk*. This collection, written with ease and grace but in a melancholy vein, records experiences from Lu Xun's childhood to the Revolution of 1911 and so presents this facet of Chinese society, extolling the goodness and wisdom of the Chinese working people while mercilessly castigating feudal ideas and dark forces.

Lu Xun's ideas changed considerably after his study and witnessing of actual struggle, and he wanted to join in the struggle. Finding the uneventful life at Xiamen unbearable, he soon left, and in January 1927 arrived in Guangzhou, then a centre of revolution, as dean and concurrently head of the Chinese Language and Literature Department at Sun Yat-sen University. But on April 12 of that same year Chiang Kai-shek betrayed the revolution and had Communists and other revolutionaries arrested and murdered. This involved a number of students of Sun Yat-sen University, and Lu Xun resigned his posts in protest when his efforts to rescue these students proved futile. His on-the-scene view of the bloody suppression of revolutionaries by the reactionary rulers



October 8, 1936, 11 days before his death, Lu Xun talking with young woodcut artists at a national woodcut exhibition.

gave him an indelible picture of the enemies' nature, and led him to conclude that the theory of evolution no longer applied in the struggle against the combined reactionary forces of imperialism and feudalism. He began to doubt the validity of the theory of evolution, in which he had believed, and accepted the theory of classes and Marxism.

Untiring Struggle

On October 3, 1927 Lu Xun left Guangzhou for Shanghai where he remained until his death, devoting all his strength to literary movements, writing and translating. In these last nine years of his life, which coincided with the Second Revolutionary Civil War period (1927-37) and the Kuomintang mustering all its forces to brutally suppress the Chinese people and Communist Party, Lu Xun engaged in the most heroic, brilliant and significant struggles. The KMT began in 1930 to wage five armed "encirclement and suppression" campaigns against the central Soviet area. It mobilized all reactionary literati to "encircle and suppress" revolutionary writers by slander, oppression, harassment by hooliganism, spying on them, imprisonment and murder. These revolutionary writers and artists, and Communists who looked to Lu Xun as their standard-bearer, rallied around themselves many progressive writers in determined struggle, and in so doing they effectively co-ordinated the fight against the KMT military "encirclement and suppression." Mao Zedong said: "It was in the very midst of such campaigns of 'encirclement and suppression' that Lu Xun, who believed in communism,

became the giant of China's cultural revolution."

From 1928, Lu Xun studied Marxism-Leninism and translated articles on Marxist-Leninist theory of art and literature. He also wrote "Art, Literature and Revolution" and "Literature in the Revolutionary Era" to expound his views. In March 1930, the Communist-led China League of Left-Wing Writers was founded in Shanghai with Lu Xun as a founding member. Despite conflicts, sectarianism and closed-doorism among the 50 writers in the League, progressive art and literature developed rapidly and the cultural "encirclement and suppression" was beaten thanks to the joint efforts of Lu Xun and other Left-wing writers.

Essays were the main product of Lu Xun's life-time of energetic struggle. He wrote nearly 700 works in this genre, which, integrating militant revolutionary content with unique artistic style, reflected his time. These essays played the role of daggers and javelins in the struggle against the enemy. Rich and varied in theme and style, the essays include reflections, commentaries, reminiscences, commemorations, prefaces, postscripts, questions and answers, announcements and biographies.

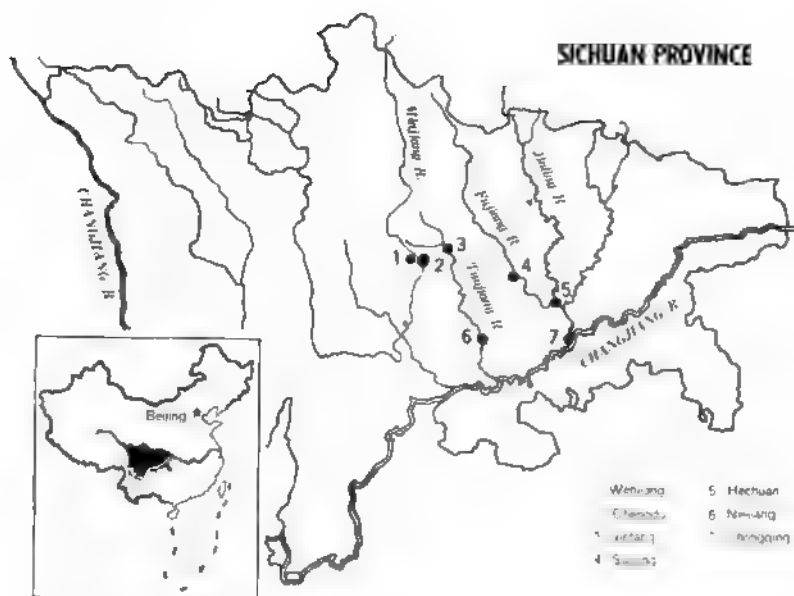
One of the many revolutionary social activities in which Lu Xun engaged was forming the China League for Civil Rights in 1931 together with Cai Yuanpei, outstanding pioneer of the Chinese intellectuals, and Soong Ching Ling, renowned great fighter of the 20th century. The purpose of the League was to defend civil rights and rescue the arrested revolutionaries. In 1933, Lu Xun and Soong Ching Ling together handed in a statement to the German Consulate in Shanghai protesting the brutalities of the German fascists. Lu Xun was also an honorary chairman of the international anti-fascist conference held in Shanghai that year.

Lu Xun firmly took the side of the Chinese Communist Party and people, giving his life-blood for justice in one of China's darkest hours. In October 1935 when the Red Army arrived in northern Shaanxi after the Long March, Lu Xun and the literary giant Mao Dun cabled this message of greetings to the Party Central Committee, Chairman Mao Zedong and Commander-in-Chief Zhu De: "The future of mankind and of China rests with you."

Lu Xun's health was deteriorating, but he would not rest despite repeated urging by Soong Ching Ling and others that he enter a

(Continued on p. 25.)

Sichuan After the Flood



After being inundated by a huge flood, Sichuan Province with a population of nearly 100 million in China's southwest is making efforts to restore production and rebuild homes. No epidemics nor begging has been reported, scenes common in old China after natural disasters. Prices are stable, social order has been maintained, and the local people are confident.

As a result of successive torrential rainstorms this summer, China's longest river Chang-jiang (Yangtze) witnessed the highest flood peak since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Sichuan Province, on the upper reaches of the river, suffered an extraordinarily big flood in mid-July and another smaller one in mid-August.

Peng Chong (1st right at the front), head of the central delegation, inspects some temporary housing in the Sichuan countryside.



The overflow affected an area composed of 135 counties and cities, with a total population of 11.8 million. More than 2,600 factories and 830,000 hectares of farmland were inundated. The disaster took a toll of 920 lives, and destroyed facilities totalling 1.6 million rooms. The rail and road traffic in the area was completely interrupted for a time and 38,000 water conservancy works were damaged. The direct economic losses are estimated at over 2,000 million yuan.

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council showed great concern for the local people after the flood. The central and local governments organized relief work and swiftly appropriated food, money and various materials to the affected area. The local army personnel helped with relief work and the demolition of dangerous buildings. People from all parts of China including Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao) made donations to the flood area.

Self-Reliance

The local people did not wait for government relief; they depended on their own efforts to overcome the difficulties.

By the end of August, more than 90 per cent of the affected factories were again producing; 70 per cent of these had

reached or surpassed their pre-flood production levels.

The Chongqing Dyeing and Printing Factory processes more than half of the province's cotton cloth. Over 50 per cent of its workshops and workers' living quarters were inundated. When the floodwater entered the workshops on the afternoon of July 15, the 3,000 people (workers, staffs, dependents and retired workers) were mobilized; in addition, the army came to assist. The floodwater rose at a rate of 40 centimetres per hour. Yet those working there managed to rescue and move large amounts of dye-stuff, cloth and wood. They raised the two big transformers from the workshop floor with a manpowered pulley system so that they hung in the centre of the workshop above the water. The flood began to recede on the morning of July 17. The next afternoon the machines were put into operation again. The July quota was overfulfilled by 94,000 metres, and the percentage of high-quality products and profits all surpassed the original plan.

The provincial leadership praised this spirit of self-reliance, and it recommended that a discussion of "what to do after the flood" be held at all the factories and enterprises in the province. Those workers who had been pessimistic after the flood became more encouraged. Many ways were tried to boost production in order to make up the losses caused by flood.

The disaster has not daunted the peasants' spirits and they are making great efforts to rebuild their lives.

The floodwater damaged 150 metres of the Qingmao Cofferdam, an important water conservancy project in Jintang County, leaving only a sluice gate intact. All the channels for water were silted. At a call by the county Party committee, 2,500 persons flocked to the 2,000-metre-long dam and finished repairing it in only 10 days. Clean water was again able to irrigate the 860 hectares of paddy-rice fields.

At present, many people in the affected area are living in makeshift housing. However, some peasants are already building new houses. Eighty per cent of the 33,000 families in Chongqing whose accommodations had been inundated have moved back into their repaired homes.

Helping the Less Fortunate

In the affected area, a proletarian style of offering help to the needy has been displayed.



Workers salvage materials from rising waters in the Chongqing Pencil Factory.

The Neijiang Cotton Mill situated in the hardest hit area is one of Sichuan's key enterprises. All its 4,000 pieces of equipment were submerged in water. After the flood receded, 480 technicians from 37 cotton mills in the province went to help overhaul the machines. The cotton mill has resumed production since August 8.

The Sichuan No. 1 Spinning, Weaving, Dyeing and Printing Mill in a less affected area is one of those enterprises that, on a trial basis, is responsible for its own profits and losses. After deliberations by the democratic management committee of its workers' congress, a decision was made to donate half a million yuan from its reserve fund to the most seriously hit area. It also made available some of its manpower and material to help other factories restore production.

The call to industrial departments in Sichuan is: No less than quota in the hardest hit factories, overfulfilling it in the only slightly affected ones, and greatly surpassing it in those not flooded at all.

A similar scene exists in the countryside. When Gongxing Commune in Wenjiang County learnt that Huangfo Commune had been flood-

ed, it dispatched 52 cartloads of wheat stalk, logs and grain.

Li Yuhua, a widow with four children of Yongquan Commune also in Wenjiang County, was at a loss as to what to do now that her four-room house was damaged. Fellow villagers gave her their own bamboo, logs, wheat stalk and large amount of bricks and tiles. The second day after the floodwater receded, a dozen or so of her neighbours came over to help her build a new house. Li was moved to tears.

Flooding occurred in 10 out of 16 communes in Wenjiang County, with 125 places along its major water channels damaged and nearly 7,000 hectares of paddy-rice fields inundated for more than 40 hours. To repair the channels, the county Party committee decided to close the county's sluice gate for three days. Over 30,000 commune members of those areas not affected brought along their own tools and finished the repairs in two and a half days. All of the affected rice fields were salvaged, and not long afterwards, the task of resowing and transplanting was completed.

A leading member of the county Party committee commented: "It would be hard for a single commune or production team to recover in such a short period of time if it depended solely on its own resources. But viewing the county as a whole, the affected area was not so large. If the masses' collective spirit is fully aroused, a bad situation can be changed into a good one quite quickly."

PLA Helps Out

As the torrential floodwater rose, the men and officers of the Sichuan units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army quickly dealt with emergencies and saved lives, showing the true qualities of a people's army.

- Forty-four sorties were flown and about 199,000 army men, 7,000 cars and 190 boats were used in evacuating 43,000 people, 4,200 animals and 108,000 tons of materials from the flood.

- The PLA repaired communication lines to ensure the ability of the local government to lead the fight against the rising waters and to facilitate the distribution of relief.

- They protected bridges, hydropower stations, reservoirs and other important installations from damage by the waters.

- They helped repair highways, remove silt from the streets, build makeshift housing



The family of Li Zhengxing living in simple shed after the flood.

and repair drainage channels. Over 600 enterprises, shops and production brigades were aided by the PLA to restore operations.

- Relief materials were delivered day and night to the stranded people. Five hundred tons of grain, 50,000 military uniforms and 5,000 rolls of asphalt felt were provided by the army for the disaster victims. More than 60,000 people were given food and lodging.

- The army assisted the local police and militiamen in patrols to maintain order.

- Over 1,160 medical staff members of the army were dispatched to the area. Due to the efforts of the local medical personnel and the army medical detachment, no plague and epidemic diseases occurred in the afflicted areas.

Flood Peak

When the flood peak came, prompt and decisive measures were taken by the Sichuan provincial Party committee and army leaders. The masses displayed the spirit of unity and mutual help and the lofty socialist moral character, thus reducing losses to the state and the people.

Reports of the floodwater reaching three counties arrived at the provincial Party committee during the night of July 14. The following morning, Tan Qilong, first secretary of the provincial Party committee, began an inspection tour of the afflicted counties.

At the same time, You Taizhong, commander of the Chengdu unit of the People's Liberation Army, also inspected the flood-stricken areas by plane. He then went to Chongqing, the biggest industrial city in Sichuan, to discuss ways to combat the waters with the municipal leaders. Based on the predictions of the hydrological and meteorological departments, they is-



Army officer Peng Zhengxian helped an old woman.

sued an immediate order to evacuate people and property even though the sun was still shining in Chongqing. The flood peaked in Chongqing on the evening of July 16, only three hours later than had been predicted.

Nine hundred and twenty people died as a result of the flood in Sichuan. Many of these victims were killed while attempting to rescue other people and save public property. Only a very few cases were reported of people having drowned as a result of late or no precautions being taken.

Some 220,000 people were affected in 13 counties and districts in Chongqing. Twenty-eight persons lost their lives, seven of them while participating in rescue operations.

No one died in the county seat of Hechuan although a large part of it was submerged under two or three metres of water. In some districts the water was 10 metres deep.

Many stirring stories of people who valiantly combated the floods and rescued marooned people and public property were spread by word of mouth. In order to rescue collective property, eight commune members in Suining County's Hedong Commune continued to fight the flood for more than 10 hours after the flood began pouring into a vermicelli mill. They moved three motors and 6,850 kilogrammes of pea, vermicelli and starch. Finally they had to take refuge on the roof of the workshop. The following day, they fashioned a raft from roof beams and torn clothes and battled with the

torrential flood for four hours before being rescued by a motorboat.

On July 12, when the flood poured into the house of Huang Xiurong, a commune member in Jintang County's Zhaodu Commune, she, her husband and her brother started moving their belongings on to the roof. Unexpectedly, an empty boat floated their way. They boarded the boat and abandoned rescuing their own belongings. Instead, these three young people paddled the boat from house to house to rescue people nearby. After five hours of painstaking effort, they landed the first boatload of 70 people on higher land. Then, together with several youngsters, they continued their rescue operations, saving 500 in 17 hours.

Lessons

The people of Sichuan have drawn lessons from their disaster and have begun to investigate the causes of the serious floods.

Summing-up has been organized by the Sichuan provincial leadership. They think that apart from the uncontrollable natural factors, "Left" influences, which dominated the economy for a long period, were also responsible. This "Left" line led to only thinking of the present interests and neglecting the long-term interests. As a result, many trees were indiscriminately cut down (forests covered 19 per cent of the province in the early 1950s and are only 13.3 per cent today), irrigation and water conservancy projects which lacked overall consideration and long-term planning were built. A policy of "taking grain as the key link" was implemented, hence blind opening up of wasteland and destruction of vegetation on the mountain slope. This undermining of the ecological balance set back water and soil conservation, and blocked water channels and decreased the drainage capacity of many areas. Therefore, in heavy rains, mountain floodwater streamed down easily.

These painful lessons have been learnt. *Renmin Ribao* on September 3 began publishing a special column entitled "Draw Useful Lessons From the Sichuan Floods." Tan Qilong has proposed planting more trees and grass and enlarging the forested area, preventing people from indiscriminately felling trees and improving water and soil conservation work. He also urged that leading cadres at various levels in the province develop a long-term plan in these fields, with specific goals for each year. □

China Belongs For Ever to the Third World

by Shen Yi

AN African state leader visiting China recently told his hosts that he had heard China was "repudiating" Chairman Mao and changing its foreign policy and this had him worried. However, he had been misinformed. If China were to totally repudiate Chairman Mao, which China is not, it would also include repudiating his correct foreign policy. Chairman Mao firmly opposed hegemonism and resolutely supported the third world people in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism. This was very much appreciated by the people of the third world. But will post-Mao China continue to side with the peoples of the third world? The answer is a definitive yes.

Chairman Mao's strategic conception of the three worlds is correct. China will always be a member of the third world and never seek hegemonism. We will carry on the foreign policy Chairman Mao formulated during his last years.

Policy Unchanged

Will China oppose only Soviet hegemonism but not imperialism and colonialism as it develops its relations with the United States and other developed countries? This is a question some third world countries are asking.

Waging a joint struggle together with some of the Western countries against hegemonism does not mean China has stopped supporting the struggle of the peoples of the third world and no longer cares about the interests of the oppressed nations. The situation varies among third world countries. Some are victims of Soviet hegemonist expansion; some regard the United States and certain other countries as the main danger, and some are locked in struggle against racist rule, against Israeli expansionism, or for national independence and liberation. As in the past, China will firmly stand by the side of the oppressed nations and the oppressed peoples, oppose all acts of aggression and interference from outside against third world countries and resolutely back their struggle to defend national independence, develop their national economies and

firmly support their fight against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

Developing relations with the United States does not mean that China supports its erroneous policy towards some third world countries. The United States leans heavily on the side of Israel and the South African racist regime, supports south Korea in sabotaging the national reunification of Korea and meddles with the internal affairs of some countries, China included. China is against all these. China follows its own independent foreign policy.

China carries on economic exchanges with some developed countries and absorbs advanced technology and capital from abroad, which helps in our socialist modernization, but China remains an underdeveloped country, in the same situation as other developing countries importing advanced technologies and capital and faces many similar problems they encounter in developing their national economies. China wants to work with the other third world countries to establish a new international economic order.

Unity With the Third World

There are certain people who are afraid of China's solidarity with other third world countries and who are fabricating rumour after rumour to foment discord and create trouble between China and other third world countries.

The Soviet Union and Viet Nam invented the "China threat" to make out that China poses a threat to its neighbours and Southeast Asia. But in reality, China has not a single soldier in any other country, whereas it has a million Soviet troops menacing it in the north and is constantly harassed by Vietnamese shellings and attacks in its south. It is China that is threatened. The Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and Vietnamese control of Laos are a threat to the Southeast Asian countries. Rumours and threats from the Soviet and Vietnamese hegemonists are aimed at driving a wedge between China and the Southeast Asian countries to weaken the forces standing against the hegemonists big and small. This naturally will not be allowed to happen. Their morbid



Left: Members of a Chinese medical team and local African surgeons at work.
Right: Mexican agro-scientists showing a visiting Chinese study group their high-yield shori-stalk maize.

fear of the unity between China and other third world countries should show us how much we must cherish such a unity.

Some people have tried to scare people by pointing out, like Dulles, a former US State Secretary, that China is a communist country. What the Chinese people believe in is China's own internal affair. China did not import its revolution, nor will it export revolution. Whatever road a country may choose is its own business and has nothing to do with China. As for China, it was because of Communist Party leadership that the country won its independence and liberation and made it possible for China to oppose power politics and uphold justice in the international struggle. China under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is an implacable adversary of hegemonism, which encroaches upon others' sovereignty and territory and endangers world peace.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence has always guided New China's handling of international relations and China will never interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. China advocates equality among all countries, big or small, and is against the strong bullying the weak. The People's Republic of China has never tried to force anyone to accept its view.

Another African head of state said while in Beijing: We trust China implicitly, because China gives aid to others at their request and never meddles in their internal affairs. We cannot say this for the Soviet Union. It has only one aim: the realization of its ambitions, hegemonism and global domination. China was the first to see this and it was China which made many aware of it and put them on their guard. We once were recipients of Soviet "aid."

But with "aid," came interference.

Such subterfuges as creating a "China threat" are quite useless. Will China move against others when it becomes strong and prosperous? Never. China has already long declared that it will never seek hegemonism. Those who uphold Marxism do not do anything that damages the interests of others.

China is still very poor. It would like to help other third world countries more, but is at present handicapped by its limited strength. Later, when China has built up its economy and is in a better position, it will do much more to help third world countries in difficulties and will also contribute more in defence of world peace. We have always maintained that our modernization is not only for the cause of our country but also for the cause of internationalism.

Direct Victims of Hegemonism

The third world countries are increasingly threatened by Soviet hegemonism.

The contention for world domination between the Soviet Union and the United States is focused on Europe. But at the moment, the Soviet Union is concentrating mainly on expanding its presence in several key areas of the third world. The Soviet Union wants to take over Western Europe, which it finds it cannot do at present. So it is circumventing the more solid to move into the softer areas, striking out south to outflank Europe. It has launched sustained offensives against the Middle East-Persian Gulf region, Southwest and Southeast Asia, southern Africa and the Caribbean.

If the Soviet Union can establish itself firmly in Afghanistan, it will push further, into Pakistan and Iran to seize control of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to enable it to exploit the Middle East oilfields and cut the oil route to Western Europe.

The Soviet Union is using the Vietnamese regional hegemonists to take over Kampuchea. If the invading Vietnamese secure a firm foothold there, they will push into Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries, enabling the Soviet hegemonists to control the Strait of Malacca and link up its forces in the Indian and the Pacific Oceans so that the West cannot do anything about it even though it might want to put up a fight.

It is quite clear that the Soviet Union will not stop with Kampuchea and Afghanistan in order to complete its global strategic deployment. If the Soviet expansionist drive is not checked, more and more countries will fall victim to Soviet hegemony. As a member of the third world, China will join the other countries to oppose the aggression and expansion of Soviet hegemonism and defend peace in Asia and the world as a whole.

Inseparably With the Third World

Experience in the international struggle has shown that the third world countries suffer the

most from imperialism, hegemonism and colonialism, and the contradictions between the third world countries and the imperialist, hegemonist, and colonial powers are very acute. In the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and in the struggle against hegemonism, the third world plays a tremendous role. The third world has a lot of people, plenty of resources, covers an immense area and occupies an important strategic position. The countries of the third world are full of vitality and full of promise.

China and the other third world countries have been through similar experiences and have the same goals. They understand each other the best, are most ready to give sympathy and support to each other. China cannot for a moment become separated from the rest of third world countries.

To quote another African head of state: China is important to the third world as a whole. China sides with the small countries in Asia and Africa, with the third world as a whole. China's voice in the world is much more important than China's economic aid to the third world countries.

As the third world pins its hopes on China, so we place our hopes on the third world, of which we are a member. □

(Continued from p. 18.)

hospital or go abroad to recuperate. "I cannot rest in bed while others are fighting and shedding their blood," he said. And, "I would rather work and live a few years less than live longer and not work. . . ." In June 1936 he formulated the well-known slogan advocating "popular literature of national revolutionary war." He also expounded his views on politics and on art and literature in a series of articles in which he sympathized with the Communist Party and proletarian revolution. He said: "I look upon those who shed blood and struggle for the existence of the Chinese people as my comrades, and I deem it an honour."

Lu Xun continued writing his many articles and letters when he was critically ill with tuberculosis, and on the early morning of October 19, 1936 this unprecedented national hero on the cultural front passed away in Shanghai. Mao Zedong described him as the

chief commander of China's cultural revolution, a man of unyielding integrity, free from all sycophancy or obsequiousness. "The road he took was the very road of China's new national culture." Zhou Enlai said of Lu Xun that he was "a great bridge during the transitional period" linking the old-democratic and new-democratic revolutions, "a pioneer who blazed a trail."

The extent of Lu Xun's writings is impressive — three collections of short stories, a collection each of prose poems and prose writings, 16 volumes of essays, two books on the study of Chinese literary history, 70 poems, diaries amounting to 600,000 words, and 1,400 letters. He also translated 200-plus writings by 90 authors from 14 countries and compiled several Chinese classics. Many of his works have been translated, involving some 50 languages. Lu Xun was a most prominent writer in the modern world of letters. □

Two Best Periods in the History of CPC

OFTEN one finds two epochs in history resemble each other. Since the Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1921, it has gone through two historical stages—the new-democratic revolution and socialist construction. In both periods, it was only after serious setbacks that the Party vigorously developed.

In the new-democratic revolution, the Yanan period after 1945 can be said to be the best in the history of CPC. In the dozen years after the founding of the Party, because it lacked experience, it first committed Right mistakes and then three times in succession "Left" mistakes. These caused serious setbacks for the revolution. In 1942, the Party started an all-round rectification campaign to criticize "Left" and Right errors, sum up experiences and draw lessons. On this basis, the Seventh Plenary Session of the Sixth Party Central Committee, held in 1945, adopted the Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party. Afterwards, the Seventh National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was convened. By then, Mao Zedong Thought, which combines Marxist theory and China's revolutionary practice, had arisen and developed into a relatively complete and systematic theory. The whole Party was unprecedentedly united.

From then on, the Chinese revolution advanced triumphantly. The Party led the people of the whole country not only in winning victories in the

War of Resistance Against Japan and the War of Liberation and establishing the People's Republic of China; but also in the smooth transition from the new-democratic revolution to the socialist revolution, rapid rehabilitation of the national economy, socialist transformation and fulfilment of the targets of the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57) ahead of schedule.

In 1957, our country and Party entered the stage of all-round socialist construction. But the road we have traversed since has been a tortuous one. Continuous interference from "Left" tendencies, especially during the 10 tumultuous years of the "cultural revolution," has caused us grave losses. In the first two years after the smashing of the gang of four in October 1976, we failed to thoroughly eliminate the influence of "Left" mistakes. It was only after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee held in December 1978 that we began to thoroughly correct our past errors, formulate again a Marxist ideological, political and organizational line, and shift the focus of work for the whole Party to the four modernizations. At the same time, we redressed a large number of frame-ups and wrong verdicts, began to abolish the de facto life tenure for leading cadres, laid stress on upholding and improving the leadership of the Party, and restored democratic centralism and the system of collective leadership.

New economic policies have

been adopted. The prolonged stagnation and confusion in the national economy have been basically changed.

The Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China adopted at the recent Sixth Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee made a comprehensive summary of experiences gained in socialist revolution and construction and correctly evaluated the great historical role of Comrade Mao Zedong and Mao Zedong Thought and further unified the thinking of the whole Party. It can be said that the years following the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee are another of the best periods in the history of the Chinese Communist Party.

If we compare the period since the Third Plenary Session with the Yanan years after 1945, we will find that both of them came after the Party suffered great setbacks, overcame enormous difficulties, summed up experiences, drew lessons, and thereby formulated a correct theory and a line as well as principles and policies by correctly applying Marxist-Leninist theory to the Chinese revolutionary practice. In both periods, the guiding role of Mao Zedong Thought was understood properly and upheld and a new political situation created, which enabled the Party to march forward.

(Excerpts from "Fendou" [Struggle] of Heilongjiang Province, issue No. 7, 1981)

Develop Small Towns

IN the 31 years since the founding of the People's Republic, cities in China have developed rapidly. But there has been the tendency of paying attention only to big municipalities while neglecting small ones.

In the early post-liberation days, there were only five metropolises each with a population of over one million. Now there are 15. At present, 42 per cent of the urban population is crowded in the 43 big cities each with a population exceeding 500,000. In the same period, there has been little development in the small towns. Some, which formerly bustled with activity, became stagnant and served only as residential quarters. But in recent years they have begun to stir again.

"Left" economic policies in the countryside were an important factor leading to the neglect of small towns. For a long time, these towns were condemned as "places of consumption," rural fairs were considered "hotbeds of capitalism," and the activities of roadside pedlars and other individual labourers were banned. All this led to the stagnation of small-town economies.

In China's endeavour to achieve the four modernizations, small towns play a role that cannot be replaced by big cities.

• They can absorb a large part of the surplus labour force from the countryside and thus help control the growth of large metropolises. In China, there is only 1.5 mu of land (one mu equals one-fifteenth of a hectare) per person, equivalent

to one-seventeenth of that in Canada and one-eighth of that in the United States. With the modernization of agriculture, there will soon be a surplus labour force of about a hundred million. It is impossible to accommodate them by expanding big metropolises. The problem must be mainly solved by building small towns scattered in our vast countryside.

Now there are altogether 3,300 towns and county seats and 53,000 commune seats in China. If each of these can offer employment for 1,000 more people, the total will be tens of millions. If the number of these towns is doubled, more than a hundred million jobs can be provided.

• Small towns can serve as a link between big and medium-sized cities and the vast countryside. Industrial products of the metropolises are distributed to the countryside via these towns, while farm products from the countryside are often first

processed or made into semi-finished products there before they are shipped to the cities. Because the small towns are in close proximity to farm areas and fuel sources, the development of processing industries and handicrafts will help reduce the cost of transport and promote economic development in the countryside. This is of great importance in the restructuring of the national economy and the rationalization of the distribution of industries.

• These towns can also function as centres of education, culture and scientific research in the rural areas. With the economic situation in the countryside improving, the peasants' desire for scientific and cultural knowledge has increased. Unless small towns are developed, their demands cannot be fulfilled, and the trend that intellectuals in the countryside migrate to the cities cannot be stopped.

(Excerpts from "Renmin Ribao")

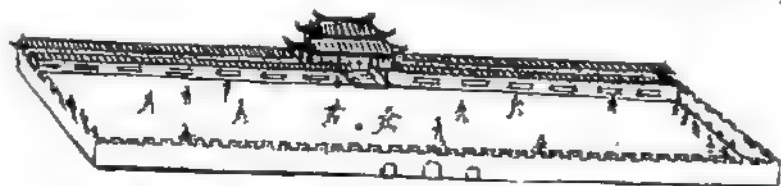
Ancient Women's Football

In recent years, women's football has become popular in numerous foreign countries. But did you know that the sport was already in vogue in the seventh century at the Tang court?

Football has a long history in China. Liu Xiang (77-6 B.C.), a man of letters in the Han Dynasty, recorded in his *Bielu* (Additional Notes) that the game could be traced back to the

Warring States Period in the fourth or fifth century B.C. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907) it had become fairly popular. At that time, there was a goal at each side of the field and only two people played. The match was decided by the number of goals scored. Wang Jian (c. 787-830), a Tang dynasty poet, recounted a women's football match in one of his poems.

(Excerpts from "Renmin Ribao")



Han dynasty football field with six goals on each side.

ECOLOGY

Professor Hou

How should China feed her 1,000 million people? Recently the views of Professor Hou Xueyu, a famous ecologist and member of the Scientific Council of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, have drawn much attention. He suggests that the traditional Chinese idea of taking starch grains such as rice, wheat and corn as the important foodstuff must be changed. To build up health, it is necessary to develop not only starch food which supplies heat to the body but also various protein-rich foods (such as meat, egg, milk, fish as well as plant-protein foods), vegetable oil, vegetables, fruits and sugar.

Early in the 1950s, China had enough grain to feed her people. Why was there a grain shortage after 1958? Summing up his own field observations, Professor Hou concluded: The ecological laws are the objective laws reflecting interaction between organisms and their environment. Whoever acts against these laws is punished by nature.

Hou Xueyu has discovered that during the 10 years of the "cultural revolution," not only the Chinese people but also nature suffered a great deal. Based on his field observations in the forested area of north-east China, Professor Hou concluded that there will be no forest at all by the end of the century if the lumbering practices are not changed.

In Inner Mongolia, he was informed that some grassland had been "reclaimed" three times, but people could not even harvest as much as the amount



of seed they had planted in the fields. As the ecological balance has been destroyed, the formerly good pasture land is now overgrown with weeds, which are not good feed for cows or sheep; and rats are rampant.

Hou's research into the conditions of the lakes in Anhui Province resulted in numerous important observations. He found that fish production decreased there because the irrigation projects and dams blocked the rivers that fish usually travelled before they reached their spawning grounds. By holding back water to increase cultivated land around the lakes, man had decreased their capacity to hold water, thus increasing the likelihood of floods. Further, many plants and animals which used to be plentiful such as reeds, lotus roots, wild geese, swans and red-crowned cranes are scarce, as their environment has seriously deteriorated.

This noted 69-year-old ecologist had studied agricultural chemistry in the Nanjing Jinling University and the Central University. After graduation in 1937, he worked at the Central Geography Exploration Institute. In his eight years there he walked more than 15,000 kilometres gathering samples

and exploring. This laid a sound foundation for his later academic work.

In 1945, Hou Xueyu went to the United States and studied at Pennsylvania State University. He got a Ph.D. degree four years later and was hired by the university. However, in October 1949, at the news of the founding

of New China, he quit his job and came back to the motherland. Under his sponsorship, China's first plant ecological research office was established in February 1950.

In 1963 after extensive field research, he wrote a book entitled *Highlights of the Division of Chinese Nature Serving Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Husbandry, Sidelines and Fishery*. In 1979, utilizing his experience and abundant materials, Professor Hou edited *Map of China's Vegetation*, the first of its kind in China. He completed the 400,000-word book *Geography of Chinese Vegetation and the Composition of Superior Species* the same year. These reference books are important sources of information needed for developing China's economy, especially agriculture.

He has personally participated in field work during the past 32 years except for several years in the "cultural revolution" when he came under attack for no reason at all. From the Greater Hinggan Mountains in the north to Hainan Island and Xishuangbanna in the south, from the Changbai Mountains in the east to Xinjiang in the west, he has explored almost every mountain and river in China. He has even

collected samples in the desert of Taklimakan where few wild animals and birds dare venture. "I have two teachers," Hou says, "one is nature; the other is the local people." Wherever he goes, he learns from the two teachers, sums up his observations, draws conclusions, and makes suggestions.

EXHIBITION

Popularizing Computers

An exhibition of China-made computers is under way in the Beijing Exhibition Hall. More than 200 products from 82 computer research and production units are on display. "The products at last year's fair were like three-year-old children. But what I have seen this year are 17- or 18-year-old young men," commented a senior staff member of a US computer company.

The first Chinese computer was made in 1958, and since then China has produced about 3,000 computers of various types. In order to develop this new industry under unified leadership, the State Administration of the Computer Industry was set up in 1979. There are 26 research institutes and 99 factories with 70,000 employees including 8,700 technicians. These units co-operate with colleges in carrying out research and production.

In China, computer technology has only recently begun to be applied in production in addition to its utilization in scientific research. Beginning from 1979, computer products were changed from state-monopoly commodities to market commodities. This has brought improvements in their quality, application and flexibility and a reduction in prices. In 1980, the China Computer

Technology Service Corporation was established and branch offices were opened afterwards, thus facilitating the application of computer technology.

A Chinese character editing system, though too large to be exhibited, has drawn particular attention from visitors to the exhibit when they read the descriptions. As Chinese characters are both numerous and complicated, a store of 2,500 million character bytes may be required, causing difficulties which do not exist in computer edition of Western languages. Scientists in the United States, Britain, Japan and other countries as well as in Xianggang (Hongkong) and Taiwan have all been carrying out research on editing Chinese characters by computer.

The Chinese character editing system was produced jointly by research workers in Beijing University and the Weifang Computer Factory in Shandong Province. The system has basically solved the problems of storage of condensed Chinese character messages, the editing of characters, and laser printout, the last being a significant breakthrough. On exhibit are an information retrieving system and a Chinese-medicine diagnostic system, both of which have utilized quite advanced computer technology.

The exhibition also demonstrates how computers can be used in many fields such as the administration of enterprises, the checking of textile machines, teaching, designing, and book-keeping.

The purpose of the exhibit is to introduce to the public the use of computers in the national economy and to promote their further application. One of the reasons why China's computer

Chinese-Medicine Diagnostic Computer

The diagnostic and treatment experiences of famous traditional Chinese doctors have been collected and stored in the memory bank of a computer. A doctor can now punch in the patient's symptoms, and the computer will process the data. The readout includes the diagnosis, the prescription and the "doctor's advice." This system is now being used in the Beijing Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital.

industry has developed slowly over the past two decades is some authorities' belief that as China has ample manpower the development of this industry is not desirable. The exhibition is trying to convince people that by using computers man does so many things better than he can alone.

The exhibition is scheduled to close in mid-October.



New Edition of Lu Xun's Complete Works

Complete Works of Lu Xun (in Chinese)

《鲁迅全集》

Published by the People's Literature Publishing House,

Renminbi: 62 yuan (with silk cover), 50 yuan (with paper cover).

The 16-volume, 6.5-million-word *Complete Works of Lu Xun* with new annotations was published recently to mark the centenary of the birth of Lu Xun. This edition is a fuller compilation of his writings than any previous edition, and its annotations are an improvement on those in the 1958 edition of *Collected Works of Lu Xun*. The complete works are indispensable to serious readers of the greatest modern author of China.

Since the death of Lu Xun in October 1936, two main editions of his works have been published in China. The first edition was compiled and published in 1938 by the Lu Xun Memorial Committee composed of Cai Yuanpei, the noted educator; Soong Ching Ling, a good

friend of Lu Xun; and Xu Guangping, his wife. This 20-volume edition contains his writings, translations, and Chinese classics that he edited. The collection was incomplete and had shortcomings in editing due to time limitations. As the book was not annotated, readers found many passages and references difficult to understand.

After the founding of New China, a special organization was set up to compile Lu Xun's works. As a result of its work, the 10-volume *Collected Works of Lu Xun* was brought out by the People's Literature Publishing House in 1958. This collection only includes his own writings, and unlike the previous edition it is carefully annotated with 5,800 footnotes totalling 540,000 words. It has been a great aid to readers, teachers and researchers.

The present version is based on the 1958 edition, but includes new results of annotating and studying Lu Xun's writings since 1958.

This new edition which is basically complete has the following items not included in the 1958 version: 1) Two separate

volumes of prefaces, postscripts and appendices which Lu Xun wrote for his translations and Chinese classics he edited; 2) *Miscellaneous Collections (III)*, a compilation of scattered or missing materials that have been collected since 1938; 3) the 1,456 letters which are presently available; 4) More diaries. So, with the exception of excerpts from Chinese and foreign books and periodicals, which Lu Xun edited in his youth, all his known writings are included in the present edition.

To make the annotations more comprehensive, the editors of the complete works enlisted the help of the Chinese literature departments in 20 institutes of higher learning. A large amount of data was collected through extensive research. The 24,000 footnotes are mainly about persons, organizations, journals, historical events, literary quotations, customs, local dialect and slang. They greatly facilitate readers' understanding of Lu Xun's writings.

The editors used the historical materialist methodology in making annotations and did not avoid controversial literary issues. For instance, Lu Xun was labelled as a "feudal remnant" in the essay "Feudal Remnants on the Literary and Art Front" by an author who wrote under the pseudonym of Du Quan. More than once, Lu Xun counterattacked. But who was this Du Quan? There had been much speculation about this. Based on reliable material, the editors conclude that Du Quan was the pseudonym of Guo Moruo.

The editors were equally meticulous in checking the annotations referring to contemporary personages and new notes were written if the originals contained errors. One such



example is the note on Yao Ke, a writer who had contributed to progressive art and literature and prior to liberation went with his organization to Xianggang (Hongkong) to work. But the 1958 version read, he "fled abroad after liberation of the mainland in 1949." This mistake is corrected in the new version.

All the works collected in this new edition have been checked against early editions which were personally approved by Lu Xun, his original manuscripts, or the articles first published in the newspapers or magazines. For instance, over 1,000 changes were made in the articles of the first six volumes, although they had previously been checked several times. The reader can be confident that the complete works is faithful to the original both in wording and punctuation.

The work on this new edition began in early 1978. Although the first pamphlet came out in July of that year, the printing of the complete works did not begin until early 1980. Since the books were printed in a short period of time volume by volume, the wording of some notes on the same question in different volumes does not quite correspond and the style is not unified. Owing to lack of materials, no explanation is provided in some places which are difficult to understand. In any future edition efforts should be made to overcome these weaknesses.

— Li Wenbing

Translations of Lu Xun's Writings

In commemoration of the 100th birthday of Lu Xun, the Foreign Languages Press has pub-

lished the second edition of the four-volume *Lu Xun: Selected Works* (in English). Two new English translations, *Lu Xun: Selected Poems and Letters Between Two: The Correspondence of Lu Xun and Xu Guangping*, are now being prepared for publication by the press. Other works to be published soon are: new complete editions of *Call to Arms and Wandering* (in English); *Lu Xun: Selected Works Vol. 1* (in French); *Selected Stories of Lu Xun* (in Bengalese); *A Brief History of Chinese Fiction* (in German).

The foreign language editions of the four-volume *Lu Xun: Selected Works* were edited by the contemporary writer Feng Xuefeng. The first English version was completed in 1960. The translations are by the noted translators Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang. For the second edition they made some improvements in the translations, and a few new pieces have been added. Volume I contains 46 short stories, prose poems and reminiscences; the other three volumes contain 250 of his essays. Volume I is prefaced by Feng Xuefeng's "Lu Xun: His Life and Works." Volume IV includes a chronological table of Lu Xun's writings and translations.

The Foreign Languages Press has published works of Lu Xun in Arabic, English, Esperanto, French, German, Hindi, Korean, Spanish, Thai and Urdu. These include *Collection of Lu Xun's Stories* (in Esperanto); *Selected Stories of Lu Xun* (in Arabic, English, French, German, Hindi, Korean, Spanish and Thai); *Old Tales Retold* (in English,

CORRECTION: In issue 38, p. 19, right-hand column, 4th paragraph, lines 8, 9, and 10 should be replaced with "by creating more and better works in the future."

Book News

English and Japanese Editions of *Selected Works of Zhou Enlai* (Volume I)



The English and Japanese editions of the "Selected Works of Zhou Enlai," Volume I, have now been published by the Foreign Languages Press, Beijing. The English edition, 152 × 222 mm, is available in paper and clothbound covers and the Japanese edition, 130 × 184 mm, only in clothbound covers. Distributed at home and abroad by Guoji Shudian (China Publications Centre), both are on sale at Waiwen Shudian (Foreign Languages Bookstores) in China's major cities.

The French, Spanish and Russian editions will be published before the end of this year.

The Foreign Languages Press also plans to put out German, Korean and Arabic editions of the "Selected Writings of Zhou Enlai," Volume I, which consists of articles and speeches from the "Selected Works."

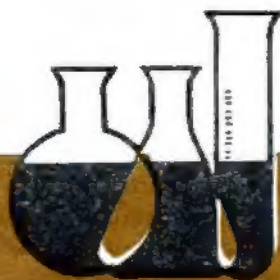
French and Spanish); *Wild Grass* (in English, Esperanto, German and Korean); *Dawn Blossoms Plucked at Dusk* (in English, German and Korean); *The True Story of Ah Q* (in English, French, Spanish and Urdu); and *A Brief History of Chinese Fiction* (in English).

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